

Summary: July 27, 2006 Board Meeting

The members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board met at Grays Harbor College on July 27, 2006. Chairman Gene Colin presided.

New Degree Programs Approved: The board approved two new degree programs at the University of Washington and four pilot baccalaureate programs at community colleges:

- Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science, University of Washington;
- Master of Science in Real Estate, University of Washington;
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Olympic College;
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, South Seattle Community College;
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management, Peninsula College; and
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiation & Imaging Sciences, Bellevue Community College.

Institutional representatives, college presidents and area employers testified on behalf of the programs.

Washington Learns Higher Education Advisory Committee Initiatives: Debora Merle, higher education policy advisor to the governor, discussed the recommendations included in the Higher Education Advisory Committee's "big ideas" report. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Washington Learns Steering Committee, which will issue a draft plan in August and a final report in November – encompassing the three areas of early learning, K-12, and higher education.

Executive Director's Report: Dr. James Sulton, Jr., reported on the following:

- The national Commission on the Future of Higher Education draft reports;
- State Work Study "Incentive Grants" awarded by the HECB to 10 institutions; and
- The Washington Financial Aid Exchange (WAFAX) pilot program to ease the financial aid process for co-enrolled students and institutions.

2007-09 HECB Agency Budget Approved: The board approved the 2007-09 HECB agency budget request recommended by the fiscal committee. The committee prioritized the proposals by examining the policy basis, anticipated outcomes, and estimated cost for each proposal. The budget is due to the Office of Financial Management by September 1.

Biennial Higher Education Operating Budget: Staff presented a new approach for developing the 2007-09 higher education budget recommendations, consisting of four statewide operating budget priorities, which relate to the two goals of the 2004 Strategic Master Plan. The institutions will present their budgets during the board's September meeting in Olympia.

State Need Grant and State Work Study Rules Change: The board unanimously approved permanent rules changes to the State Need Grant and State Work Study programs. Among other things, the changes will allow both programs to give priority to serving former foster youth.

GEAR UP Program Update: HECB staff gave an overview of the successful first GEAR UP grant cycle (1999-2006) and progress of the second cycle (2005-2011).

UW Off-campus Property Acquisition Plan Approved: The board held a short executive session to consider a prospective real estate transaction. The University of Washington is in the process of negotiating to acquire properties owned by SAFECO located near the UW Seattle campus. Under state law, HECB approval is required for off-campus property acquisitions by the state's public colleges and universities. The board voted to approve the UW's proposal during the regular, open portion of its meeting.

Diversity in Washington Higher Education: Dr. Sulton presented a system-wide report on diversity that included information on the current level of diversity in higher education as it pertains to students, faculty and staff and the campus environment, as well as recommendations for future improvement. The report will be the subject of public meetings in August and will be brought back to the board for approval in September.

Statewide Role and Mission for Higher Education: In light of changes in the state's higher education system and in preparation for the 2008 Strategic Master Plan, the existing roles and missions of the state's public higher education institutions will be reviewed, and a statewide mission for higher education will be developed. This work is in progress and will be submitted to the board for approval in December.

Online Student Advising Pilot Project: The HECB has been awarded funding from the Qwest settlement to pilot an online advising system that would enable students at any community college in the state to explore degree programs at any state baccalaureate institution through one Web site. Peggi Munkittrick, Lin Zhou, and David Stanley of AcademyOne, the HECB's private-sector partner for this venture, demonstrated the capabilities of the system.

Biennial Review of Academic Enrollments, Programs and Locations: In September 2005, the board approved a revised framework for approving new degree programs, creating off-campus teaching sites and centers, and assessment and reporting requirements for new and existing programs offered by the six public baccalaureate institutions. During the board's July meeting, staff presented the proposed classification of existing off-campus instructional locations as teaching sites and centers and summarized programs approved, name changes, reclassifications, and programs eliminated in the past two years.

Materials presented at the meeting are available at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp>

Next meeting: State Investment Board in Olympia
September 27, 2006, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. (regular board meeting)
September 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (institutional budget presentations)